

Serial No. 10/773,038
Atty. Doc. No. 2002P10620US

REMARKS

Claims 1, 15, 17, and 18 have been amended and claim 25 has been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-24 are presented for examination. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response to Objections to the Specification:

The Examiner rejected the abstract of the specification for being more than one paragraph and exceeding 150 words in length. Applicants have amended the specification to meet the requirements set forth in MPEP §608.01(b). Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

Response to Rejections Under Section 112:

Claims 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, the Examiner contending that the claim is indefinite for failing to distinctly claim the subject matter Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended claim 13 to clarify the location of the groove. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection under section 112.

Request For Allowance of Claims 1-24:

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 23-25 contained patentable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The limitation of claim 23 has been incorporated into independent Claim 1 (which is generally similar but not identical to the independent base claim of claim 23). The limitation of claim 24 has been incorporated into independent Claim 17 (which is generally similar but not identical to the independent base claim of claim 24). Independent Claim 18 has been rewritten to include the limitation of claim 25.

In view of the amendments to independent claims 1, 17, and 18, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 17, and 18 and the claims that depend thereon are in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-24.

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Response to Claim 15


The Examiner has rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kuhn et al. (US Patent 6,227,799). Examiner asserts that Kuhn discloses a channel in a main blade part that is connected to the passage. Applicants have amended claim 15 to recite the limitation that the channel in the main blade part permits axial flow directly from the first region to the second region. Kuhn neither suggests nor discloses that the channel permits flow directly from the first region to the second region. Rather, Kuhn discloses a blade cooling line extending radially through the blade and not axially connecting a first region to a second region. Therefore, Applicants suggest that claim 15 is allowable and request that the rejection of claim 15 be withdrawn

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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